

Harmon, "what was in the minds of all the Governors. The spontaneity with which my suggestion was accepted was remarkable. It showed that every man here shared my view. All of us, especially those of us who are lawyers, realized that a far-reaching and permanent effect the decision of the Supreme Court in the Minnesota case would be—what its bearing would be on the whole question of States rights."

"If the Supreme Court should affirm Justice Sanborn's decision it would mean that no State would be allowed to regulate railroad rates within its own borders. All lawyers know how important such decisions are, to make what the issue. When the Supreme Court once says a thing it is pretty hard to get it changed. Therefore it is essential that it be made a stand now, before the Supreme Court speaks."

"I don't see how anybody can describe our action as radical. I hold that it is the essence of conservatism to support the right of States to manage their own internal affairs. I am not a conservative for a good many years if I am not mistaken. It is surely a conservative to uphold the States in their effort to make supreme within their own borders the points within their own boundaries. It is no concern of mine what vagaries some of the Governors may indulge in as to other questions, but in this matter they are going to work with me as a prohibitionist in this matter."

"I don't want to be understood as making any attack on the judiciary. Our work as a committee representing the Governors' conference implies nothing of that sort. We are not going to tell the Supreme Court how to run its business; we are going to argue merely for the right of our States."

"My appointment as chairman cannot have any political effect. The fact that I have been mentioned as a candidate for President ought not to be considered at all in this matter. I am sure none of the Governors gave a thought to such a thing."

Gov. Hadley of Missouri said that the committee took a greater interest in lawyers than they did in Governors in the question as to whether the States should be enjoined by Federal court from regulating intrastate railroad rates.

"But as Governors," he continued, "we realize that the time has come to halt the aggression of the Federal courts. The West is suspicious of some of these Judges, and the time may come very soon when Congress will have to abolish the United States Federal Judges. The feeling is very pronounced out West and the West is waiting anxiously for what the Supreme Court may do in these cases."

"I don't approve of the language used by Gov. Aldrich of Nebraska toward Justice Sanborn, but Aldrich is a positive man and feels deeply in these matters."

Gov. Aldrich said he had nothing to take back. He said that Justice Sanborn had decided the case in a most extraordinary way and clearly against the weight of evidence and opinion. Such men as Sanborn, he said, were trying to tyrannize State Governments and it was time that their activities should be curbed.

"What the conference did yesterday was good Republican action," said Gov. Aldrich. "It was not radical or unusual. I hope the Supreme Court will decide that the States have some rights after all."

Gov. Dix of New York said in regard to the action of the Governors' conference: "I am old fashioned enough to believe in the rights of the States. I believe in them unto themselves and that until the Constitution of the United States is changed each State is clothed with the power and authority to control its own affairs. It creates, it does not derive power from the corporations that are within the jurisdiction of several States cannot be regulated by the Federal Government. Home rule for States is a Federal Government."

Gov. Dix said that the Governors' conference was a most extraordinary way and clearly against the weight of evidence and opinion. Such men as Sanborn, he said, were trying to tyrannize State Governments and it was time that their activities should be curbed.

"The procedure of the committee of which Justice Harmon is chairman will be to study the pros and cons of all the rate cases, some of which have been now before the Supreme Court and others from these materials for argument before the Supreme Court. Gov. Hadley and Gov. Aldrich will collect the data and put the material before the committee. Gov. Dix expects to be pretty busy for some months to come. He will crystallize the evidence for the States and shape it for presentation to the Federal Government."

On the final day of their conference the Governors held an executive session before taking up the discussion of addresses. They decided to meet in Richmond, Va., next year. They authorized the appointment of a permanent secretary at a salary of not more than \$3,000 a year. They voted to admit the Governors of New York and New Jersey to the conference.

Gov. Dix devoted some time to a discussion of the question of taxing income. In the course of his address he said:

"New York has taken some important steps this year. In the matter of State income in taxation we have made a change in our inheritance tax law and will no longer tax the intangible property of residents of other States which may happen to be within our borders or over which we may have control. Under our new law, enacted in July, the estate of our citizens will be taxable on real estate and chattels within the State and upon the value of intangible property, such as shares of stock, money and securities, wherever located. The new law will be effective on January 1, 1912, and will be applied to all estates and chattels actually within our borders."

In the experience meeting Gov. Shafter discussed Colorado's system of employing convict labor and favored a shortening of the term of imprisonment for convicts who were put to outside work."

Gov. Stubbs of Kansas told how "blue sky" law works in his State. It was designed to stop the sale of wildcat securities, and it has succeeded, he said. "It is a law that has been successful. It has been a penitentiary offence to sell stock and bonds in Kansas that have not been certified by the State Banking Commission. He said that Kansas banks have been renovated until they are as safe as wheat in the bin. He related some experiences in enforcing the law. He had 432 employees, a hundred of whom were "assistant superintendents of ventilation" at a cost of \$300 a day to open the State House. He believed that convicts should be paid for what they did outside prison walls, or at least the State should pay something for them. On Kansas primary laws Gov. Stubbs was very positive. They didn't work well, he said, because they had been prepared by crooked politicians and were full of loopholes. He thought the Supreme Court should strike them down. He said that he would knock them out and pave the way for an adequate primary law."

Gov. Dix said that he had given \$50,000 a year, but he gave it all to Mrs. Stubbs. She says she will pay me a month, which she considers ample, but I haven't got a cent from her yet."

Ex-Gov. Fort of New Jersey closed the fourth annual conference with a short talk. He said that the Governors had left before the afternoon session.

Gov. Carey of Wyoming, Gov. Stubbs of Kansas and Gov. Vessey of South Dakota were the only Governors who were not present at the conference. Many of the Governors will stay in New York a few days before scattering for home. Twenty will attend the performance at the Hippodrome to-morrow night.

CHANCE FOR STOLYPIN'S LIFE

RUSSIA'S WOUNDED PREMIER BEARS UP STOICALLY

St. Petersburg, Sept. 15.—Strong hope is entertained now that Premier Stolypin, who was shot at the Municipal Theatre here last night in the presence of the Czar, will recover and for the third time in his career cheat the assassins. An official statement issued this afternoon said that M. Stolypin is suffering from two bullet wounds, one of which is on the right side of the chest and the other in the right hand. The first bullet entered the first intercostal interval within the papillary line and became embedded beneath the twelfth rib three inches from the spinous process. For some hours the Minister suffered great weakness and violent pains, which he bore with much stoicism.

A despatch sent to the brother of the Premier, Alexander Stolypin, at St. Petersburg, says that the patient's condition is satisfactory and that the surgeons had not deemed so far that an operation was necessary. It was the opinion of the doctors that the liver had not been penetrated, as was supposed last night, but only grazed. The pulse of the patient was recorded as at 70.

After the wounded man was removed from the theatre last night he slept four hours. When he awoke the doctors held a consultation. It was then decided that the wound would not necessarily prove fatal. Nevertheless Kief cannot again take on the festive mood that was hers yesterday because of the visit of the Czar.

The Czar had fallen on the second act of the opera and ballet "The Sultan" when a young man in evening clothes made his way down the aisle of the theatre to the front seats where M. Stolypin and his friends were chatting. It was just 11:30 o'clock. Admission to the theatre was free and there was nothing about the appearance of the strange young man to excite suspicion. The first thing that anyone noticed was when he accosted the Premier. Then suddenly he drew a revolver from his coat and fired twice in quick succession while the Premier Minister was attempting to ward off the attack.

There were wild cries from all over the house as the Emperor jumped from his seat and started in the direction of the wounded Premier. He realized at once that M. Stolypin had been shot, and probably with a view to preventing a panic he turned to the orchestra and ordered it to play the national anthem.

The coolest person in the theatre seemed to be the wounded man himself. He summoned all of his strength, arose and gazing at the Emperor raised his wounded arm and made the sign of the cross. Then he slipped back into his seat. Officers ran to his assistance, but M. Stolypin without their aid removed his uniform coat.

In the meantime there was the wildest confusion in the theatre. Bogroff, the assassin, the young man who had walked down the aisle, sought after the shooting to take advantage of the uproar. He started toward an exit, but the men present were too quick for him and he was seized, thrown to the floor, kicked and trampled upon.

For a time it seemed as if Bogroff would be killed within the walls of the theatre in sight of the man he had tried to murder, but the police succeeded in quieting the crowd and rescuing him alive.

First aid to the wounded Premier was rendered by Prof. Rein, who happened to be one of the audience. When he had removed from the theatre the curtain was raised and the national anthem had a chorus of "God Save Thy People." The Emperor, standing in the front of the imperial box, bowed his acknowledgments to the singers and to the royal persons in the audience. Afterward he left with his two children and went to the palace.

The play was not resumed, and after the Emperor had gone the police took charge and closed all the exits. The audience was kept in the house until each person present had identified himself and then they were allowed to go one by one. Even the Ministers who desired to go with the wounded man were compelled to remain and be identified.

The wounded statesman was taken to the Makovsky surgical sanatorium, in which several surgeons were called at once. M. Stolypin sent to the Czar a message in which he said that he was willing to die for the Emperor.

There are many versions of the manner in which the shooting was done, but they virtually concur. M. Stolypin is described in one as standing chatting with friends during the entr'acte in the front row of the orchestra stalls when Bogroff approached as if about to join the group and fired two shots point blank at the Premier Minister, a distance of not more than two or three paces.

Bogroff was severely mangled by the throng. His face was battered. His clothing torn to shreds. His identity has not been fully established and it is not known if the name he gave the police is real. The prisoner has persistently refused to answer questions put to him by the officials, though he coolly admits that he is an anarchist and says that he was deputized by his colleagues in St. Petersburg to kill the Premier Minister.

It is said that he has undergone fifteen terms of imprisonment for political offenses. There is general surprise that the man could have gained admittance to the theatre, as each person admitted was supposed to undergo the close scrutiny of the officials.

The local newspapers insist that Bogroff is a Jew, and the public is only too willing to believe the statement. There is consequently a dangerous outburst of anti-Semitism, which is always latent. There is much excitement in the streets and it is feared that there will be outrage committed against the Jews. Prominent Hebrews have appealed to the authorities for protection. The rabbis and other leaders are projecting a petition to the Czar assuring him of their loyalty, repudiating the criminal and asking for protection against violence.

The Czar visited M. Stolypin at the hospital this morning and later reviewed 5,000 troops. He will leave Kief to-night for Ovrutsh, where he goes to attend the consecration of a new church.

St. Petersburg, Sept. 15.—It is conjectured here that the secret police is working here with the local powerful Black Hundreds (League of the Russian People), desired the assassination of M. Stolypin. They were infuriated at the disgrace of Vladimir Trepoft, the member of the Council of the Empire who caused the arrest of Stolypin to resign last spring and who was himself compelled to retire

because of his fight against the Premier, and the introduction of zemstvos, or provincial councils, in the western provinces.

It is remarked by many persons that the professors of Kief University and many eminent citizens were unable to secure tickets for last night's gala performance, while the young local lawyer Bogroff got access to front seats.

W. N. Kokovtsov, the Minister of Finance, who was sitting beside M. Stolypin at the time he was attacked, is on his way here from Kief to assume the duties of Premier during the incapacity of M. Stolypin.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 15.—George Post Wheeler, Chargé d'Affaires of the American Embassy at St. Petersburg, has been instructed by Acting Secretary of State Huntington Wilson to express the regrets of the Government and people of the United States upon the attempted assassination of Premier Stolypin.

Mr. Wheeler advised the Department that the Premier Minister was shot through the body at about 11 o'clock on the morning of September 15 while attending a performance at the Czar's gala performance in honor of the Emperor's visit to Kief. The assassin has been arrested, but has not yet been identified.

A telegram was received by the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs at about 5 o'clock in the morning which said that Minister Stolypin's condition was very serious but that the surgeons had some hope of his recovery.

ODessa, Sept. 15.—The Black Hundreds are attempting upon the life of Prime Minister Stolypin to Jews, and it is feared that there will be massacres of the Jews at Kief and elsewhere.

TO CRUSH SZECHUEN REVOLT. Ex-Viceroy Tein, With Ruthless Record, Sent to End Dangerous Situation.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. PEKING, Sept. 15.—An edict issued today declares that the situation at Szechuen is most dangerous. Tsan-Chun-Hsuan, who is now at Shanghai, has been ordered to Szechuen. Tein is the ex-Viceroy of the province of Szechuen and Kwang-tung, who ruthlessly put down rebellions in the past.

Railway Commissioner Tuang-fang has in the meantime been ordered to raise the siege of Cheng-tu forthwith. Cheng-tu remains for the present unreachable. It is cut off by the rebels, who are not expected to abandon the investment until their imprisoned leaders have been set free.

A report from a native source is that there are 2,000 soldiers outside of Cheng-tu who persist in neutrality. The officials are afraid to interfere lest these soldiers join the rebels in besieging the town.

LONDON, Sept. 15.—The British Minister at Peking cables the Foreign Office that he has received a telegram from the Consul at Chungking, saying that the latter has been informed by the Taoist that the situation at Cheng-tu is critical. The city is surrounded by thousands of rioters and fighting is going on.

The roads leading to the city, and rioting with the walls is feared because of the shutting off of the food supply. The missionaries in the outlying districts of the province of Szechuen have been ordered to proceed to the nearest place of safety.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 15.—A serious conflict between the rebels and Government troops has been in progress at Cheng-tu, China, since September 7, according to a despatch received at the State Department to-day from Edward T. Williams, Chargé d'Affaires of the American Legation at Peking. Mr. Williams said that about 2,000 non-Sze-chuen troops who are loyal to the Government are holding the city against the rebels, who control all approaches to the city and presumably the arsenal and magazine at the south gate.

Mr. Williams says that of the 5,000 troops of the province of Sze-chuen many are thought to have revolted. Fighting has occurred at Kwangtung and a disturbance at Suifu, but Chungking is still quiet, although anti-foreign rumors extend down the Yang-tze River as far as Wan Hsien.

All the Americans, Mr. Williams said, of whom there are eighty or more, and the British in the Sze-chuen province have been asked to leave for places of safety. No Americans are known to have left Cheng-tu, but one boatload of British left there on September 7 and the boatloads attempted to leave on the 9th and 10th were detained by the Viceroy because of danger outside the city. While the situation is critical, he said, no foreign lives are known to have been lost.

Among the leaders arrested on September 7 was the president of the Provincial Assembly of Sze-chuen, and the vice-president of the Assembly was arrested on the 13th at Hankow with revolutionary documents in his possession.

REBELS SNEER AT THE KAISER. Pictures Him as a Highbred Agrarian—Fight on Food Taxes.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. JENA, Sept. 15.—Herr Bebel, the Social-Democratic leader, addressed the Social-Democratic congress here to-day, referring to the coming election for members of the Reichstag. Herr Bebel said the fight would be principally against the Conservative-Clerical bloc. The Centre, he said, had displayed the worst characteristics of a party inimical to the people because it advocated an increase in the military estimates and taxation and an addition to customs duties which had brought the price of foodstuffs to vertiginous heights.

Bebel declared that at the next election for members of the Reichstag the Social Democrats would so direct their efforts that would vote against any increase in the taxation of foodstuffs and against any addition to the severity of the penal laws which would curtail the right of workmen to form combinations.

The Kaiser, said Bebel, was one of the biggest of the agrarians who falsely believed that the German workman lived in the lap of luxury and was provided for to the end of his days. The time was coming, he said, when the question of the price of the necessities of life would be the cardinal one to an enormous majority of Germans and the result of the storm would be to sweep away food taxes.

Dr. Bebel maintained that Germany could easily support 100,000,000 people if technical science were fully applied to methods of agricultural production and land policy. He exhorted the members of his party to try to win the largest number of votes. He warned them that they must not be too optimistic because the membership was now 700,000. They must strive to recruit the party still further and bring the membership up to a million.

Bilibao Strikers Demand. Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. BILIBAO, Sept. 15.—The general strike here is causing great uneasiness because of the defiant attitude of the strikers. They are now destroying the railroads and telegraph lines in many places.

YEGGMEN ROB BANK OF \$315,000

GETAWAY WITH PLUNDER FROM NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C.

Chinese Janitor Drops in on the Party and Is Gagged and Tied Up—No One Heard Dynamite Shot That Opened Safe—All the Small Bills Left Behind.

NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C., Sept. 15.—Five men entered the Bank of Montreal here early this morning through the front door, broke through the thick metal coating of the vault, tied up the Chinese caretaker, wrecked the cage door, blew open the safe and took approximately \$315,000 in gold and bills. They left \$20,000 in gold on the watchman's bed, where they had piled the loot, and about \$30,000 more unmooned in the safe.

They made good their escape, possibly down the Fraser River in a launch or else by automobile to Vancouver.

There was \$350,000 in the bank safe. Chief of Police Bradshaw, who is on duty here, would have taken it all if they could have carried it. As it was they took all they could carry away, leaving silver and notes of small denominations as well as damaged \$500 and \$1,000 bills lying around the floor and on tables.

The first known of the robbery was when the Chinaman appeared at the police station at 5:30 o'clock and gave the alarm. He had managed to loosen his bonds after the robbers departed. Chief Bradshaw hurried to the bank, and all the available police officers were pressed into service, but the only clue obtainable was that given by the Chinaman. From the thoroughness of the job and the tools used the police believe that a gang of robbers had been at work in Vancouver turned the trick here.

The Chinaman, who is a sort of janitor, arrived shortly after 1 o'clock to clean up the bank offices. He found the robbers at work. Before he could give an alarm he was snatched, gagged and tied to a chair. Then the robbers proceeded to collect their loot. They took the vault, they left the building before 5 o'clock. An automobile stolen from a garage was found broken down in front of the Y. M. C. A. building. The thought the yeggs attempted to get away in the machine, but had to abandon it.

Usually there is a night watchman on the premises. He went on vacation last night, but he knew the bank. The loot was tied up in his room and blankets from his bed were used to deaden the noise of the explosion.

The Chinaman, who he opened the front door of the office on Columbia street, using his pass key. He was seized at once by a large man and two others came in a moment later.

"If you make noise I will kill you," said the large man and the frightened Chinaman did not make a sound. The smaller men gagged the Chinaman with his own handkerchief. They tied his feet and hands, took him to the basement and tied him to a post. It was two hours before he managed to free himself. He says he saw only three men, but he knew at least two other men were engaged in the robbery. This theory is accepted by the police, who think at least two men acted as lookouts.

The vault had been blown before the Chinaman's arrival. From the front door the robbers evidently crossed the street and entered the building. The larger firms were in favor of arming with the men from the start, but the smaller ones, or part of them, felt that they could not afford the increases demanded.

The association voted by branches. It is composed of four, lettered A, B and C, and the Harlem branch. At the first separate vote the first three branches voted for arbitration with the Harlem branch alone holding out for a fight. Then the Harlem branch held another convocation and announced that it would join the rest of the association in its action.

A conference lasting from 2 to 6:30 P. M. was held yesterday at the Victoria Hotel between a committee of Branches A and B of the Merchant Tailors and a committee representing the striking tailors and dressmakers, in the hope of settling the strike, which has practically tied up the custom trade in this industry. The conference adjourned without effecting a settlement, but it was unofficially stated that progress had been made in bringing about peace and the conference will be resumed this forenoon, when it is believed a settlement will be reached. In case the second conference fails, the present programme is to arbitrate the matters remaining to be settled.

A very faint, but a number of the employers' organization, which were represented at yesterday's conference, take in the largest employers, the members of the organization being classified according to the extent and character of their business.

Samuel Stein, head of the firm of Stein & Blaine, said that the abolition of piece work would be a great benefit to the best and quickest of the workers.

"Some of them can in the busy season make from \$50 to \$60 a week," he said. "They are willing to work any number of hours, but the union wants to limit the hours of work. Most of our piece workers went out very reluctantly and did not want to strike."

A representative of another firm, who was waiting, said that if the strike lasted a week or two it would be bad for the workers as well as the employers. Many women who bought the new fall gowns in New York before they went home would not wait unless the strike was over soon and would buy their gowns in other cities.

When the conference was over Richard J. Hickson, president of the employers' organization, said:

"You can draw your own inference. The fact that the employers' organization is now holding a conference to-morrow indicates that we are not fighting. The situation is a very delicate one and does not warrant any statements at present."

WHORE TABLETS KILL HIM. Confusion of "Bromide" and "Bichloride"—Costs Edward Fearn His Life.

Edward Fearn, an advertising agent of 700 Riverside Drive, died early this morning in the Harlem Hospital from the effects of taking six bichloride of mercury tablets. He was taken to the institution at 3 o'clock on Thursday morning.

Fearn appeared Policeman Dunn at that time at 125th street and Third avenue and explained that he had swallowed something that seemed to be making him very faint. He said that he had been drinking too much and that some one had told him that bichloride of mercury was a good thing to take.

His condition did not seem to be serious when he first entered the hospital. His father explained that he had taken six bichloride of mercury and that he appeared to have taken a drug clerk for the wrong medicine. Fearn was 21 years old and was not married.

Obituary Notes. Secretary of State William T. Smithers died suddenly at his home in Dover yesterday of heart trouble. Mr. Smithers was a son of Joseph Smithers, who was born in Frederica, Del., fifty-eight years ago. He was a Republican and prominent in political and civic affairs. He had held several offices, having been appointed Secretary of the State three years ago. He was prominently mentioned for the next Republican gubernatorial nomination. He is survived by his wife and four children. His funeral will be held at 10 o'clock to-morrow at the home of his mother, Mrs. Mary Smithers, at West Point and served throughout the day. He was born in Augusta, Ga., eighty-three years ago.

Russian Cruiser Makes a Raid on the Kommandoroff Islands. VICTORIA, B. C., Sept. 15.—News has been brought here by the Pacific liner Awa Maru that the Russian gunboat Mandjurov had fired a fleet of eight Japanese gunboats, and that the Kommandoroff Islands were shelled on July 3 and boarded them. Their arms and supplies were seized. Shortly before this two boats of the crew of the Russian Chekma Maru No. 2 and a boatload of men from the Sofu Maru were captured by the Mandjurov when attempting a raid on the Copper River delta. The boats were destroyed and the men were taken on board the warship.

ATLANTIC RATE INCREASE. New Ocean Freight Tariff to Take Effect September 30.

SPECIAL CABLE DESPATCH TO THE SUN. LIVERPOOL, Sept. 15.—The Atlantic steamship companies decided to-day that the 10 per cent. increase in freight rates shall go into effect from September 30.

Typhoid Malaria in Haiti. SPECIAL CABLE DESPATCH TO THE SUN. CAPE HAITIEN, Sept. 15.—Dr. Donnelly and a medical commission of four left here to-day for Fort Liberté, where there is an epidemic of typhoid malaria.

JAPANESE SEALERS CAUGHT. Russian Cruiser Makes a Raid on the Kommandoroff Islands.

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PLAGIARIZED PATENT LAW

Even Typographical Errors—Had Job of a Cuban Statesman.

SPECIAL CABLE DESPATCH TO THE SUN. HAVANA, Sept. 15.—The newspapers here are laughing at Gonzalo Perez, who is the president of the Cuban Senate and who has represented Cuba at various international conferences on patents and trade marks.

He is considered the greatest expert on trade marks and patents in Cuba and at the last session of the Senate he introduced a new trade mark and patent law, prefacing it with the preamble that it was high time for Cuba to break from the antiquated Spanish legislation and substitute modern laws.

The bill was well received and was printed in handsome pamphlet form at the expense of the Government. It is now discovered that the new law is an exact transcript of the Spanish law of May 16, 1902, with the same typographical errors and the same punctuation.

Perez left out the first article of the Spanish law defining "industrial property" and the second article, therefore becomes the first. Therefore every reference is irrelevant. It is thought that the exposure will lead to the resignation of Perez.

FLIER NIEPORT INJURED. Aeroplane of His Own Invention Turns Turtlet Near Verdun.

SPECIAL CABLE DESPATCH TO THE SUN. PARIS, Sept. 15.—Edouard Nieuport, the aviator and builder of the machine which bears his name and which holds the world's distance record, was seriously injured at Verdun to-day. He had just completed a flight and was about to make a landing when the aeroplane turned turtle. The aviator sustained dangerous internal injuries. Dr. Doyen, the famous surgeon, was summoned immediately.

DR. JOWETT'S MOTHER DIES. Her Son, Pastor of Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, Was by Her Side.

SPECIAL CABLE DESPATCH TO THE SUN. LONDON, Sept. 15.—The mother of the Rev. John Henry Jowett, pastor of the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, New York, died to-day at Halifax at the age of 75.

Her son was with her when she died.

TAILORS VOTE TO CONFER. And Make Peace With Strikers—Arbitration If Conference Fails.

The Ladies Tailors and Dressmakers Association's branches in Manhattan, against whom a strike was declared on Tuesday last, voted last night to enter into a conference with the strikers and should the conference fail of an agreement, then to submit the point in dispute to arbitration.

The decision was reached after a protracted meeting in Terrace Garden lasting from a little after 9 o'clock until nearly 1 o'clock this morning. The larger firms were in favor of arbitrating with the men from the start, but the smaller ones, or part of them, felt that they could not afford the increases demanded.

The association voted by branches. It is composed of four, lettered A, B and C, and the Harlem branch. At the first separate vote the first three branches voted for arbitration with the Harlem branch alone holding out for a fight. Then the Harlem branch held another convocation and announced that it would join the rest of the association in its action.

A conference lasting from 2 to 6:30 P. M. was held yesterday at the Victoria Hotel between a committee of Branches A and B of the Merchant